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Claim Status

Claim 1 (previously amended).

Claims 2-6 (original).

Claims 7-8 (withdrawn).

Claim 9 (original).

Claims 10-14 (withdrawn).

Claim 15 (previously amended).

Claim 16 (new) A sports racket, comprising: an undistorted frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis; a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel, interwoven groups wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, said strings having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds.

Claim 17 (new) A sports racket, comprising: an undistorted frame defining an oval opening of predetermined dimensions with a vertical axis oriented along the elongated dimension and a perpendicular horizontal axis; a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel intersecting groups with adjacent strings substantially spaced apart by approximately 0.25 to 0.75 inches and wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the

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horizontal axis at an angle of about 51-58 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 51-58 degrees below the reference line, said intersection angles being selected to minimize distortion of said predetermined frame dimensions and said strings having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds.

Claim 18 (new) A sports racket comprising:

a frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis;

a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis, said handle having a handle body; and

string segments supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said string segments being arranged in two parallel, interwoven groups wherein string segments of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and string segments of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, said string segments having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds, said string segments are substantially not positioned within said handle body.